

37

scope of any claim. No language in the specification should be construed as indicating any non-claimed element essential to the practice of the invention.

Groupings of alternative elements or embodiments disclosed herein are not to be construed as limitations. Each group member may be referred to and claimed individually or in any combination with other members of the group or other elements found herein. It is anticipated that one or more members of a group may be included in, or deleted from, a group for reasons of convenience and/or patentability. When any such inclusion or deletion occurs, the specification is deemed to contain the group as modified thus fulfilling the written description of all Markush groups used in the appended claims.

Certain embodiments are described herein, including the best mode known to the inventors for carrying out the invention. Of course, variations on these described embodiments will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon reading the foregoing description. The inventor expects skilled artisans to employ such variations as appropriate, and the inventors intend for the invention to be practiced otherwise than specifically described herein. Accordingly, the claims include all modifications and equivalents of the subject matter recited in the claims as permitted by applicable law. Moreover, any combination of the above-described elements in all possible variations thereof is contemplated unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context.

In closing, it is to be understood that the embodiments disclosed herein are illustrative of the principles of the claims. Other modifications that may be employed are within the scope of the claims. Thus, by way of example, but not of limitation, alternative embodiments may be utilized in accordance with the teachings herein. Accordingly, the claims are not limited to embodiments precisely as shown and described.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method of treating complex regional pain syndrome comprising orally administering zoledronic acid to a human being in need thereof, wherein the human being receives about 80 to about 500 mg of zoledronic acid within a period of six months.

38

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the human being experiences pain relief that lasts for a duration of at least 48 hours, and the human being receives zoledronic acid no more often than once daily.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the human being does not eat food or drink beverage for at least 30 minutes after the zoledronic acid is administered.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein zoledronic acid is orally administered for only 1 to 3 months.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the human being does not eat food or drink beverage for at least 1 hour after the zoledronic acid is administered.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the human being does not eat food or drink beverage for at least 2 hours after the zoledronic acid is administered.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the human being does not eat food or drink beverage for at least 1 hour before the zoledronic acid is administered.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the human being does not eat food or drink beverage for at least 2 hours before the zoledronic acid is administered.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the zoledronic acid is orally administered weekly.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the zoledronic acid is orally administered weekly for 1 or 2 months.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein about 10 mg to about 100 mg of zoledronic acid is orally administered weekly.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the zoledronic acid is orally administered once a month, or less frequently.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the zoledronic acid is orally administered 2 to 5 times in a month.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the zoledronic acid is orally administered daily.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein about 10 mg to about 100 mg of zoledronic acid is orally administered daily.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the zoledronic acid is orally administered for 5 to 10 consecutive days.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the zoledronic acid is orally administered in a dosage form containing at least 10% zoledronic acid.

* * * * *